

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 1/27/2005**REMARKS**

Herein, the "Action" or "Office Action" refers to the Office Action identified in the above-identified title.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1-18, 42, 45, and 48 are presently pending. Claims amended herein are 1, 16, 17, 42, and 45. Claims withdrawn or cancelled herein are none. New claims added herein are none.

Claiming Priority to Provisional Application

As authorized by 37 CFR § 1.78((a)(5) and/or (6), Applicant has concurrently submitted a petition asking the Office to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 USC § 119(e) for the benefit of a prior-filed provisional application.

Accordingly, Applicant amends the specification herein in order to include a claim (under 35 USC § 119(e)) for the benefit of the priority of a prior-filed provisional patent application. Specifically, the amendment claims the benefit of US Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/148,172, which was filed on August 10, 1999.

In particular, the contents section 6 of the provisional application covers common subject-matter as that disclosed in this non-provisional application.

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